

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for playing a word based lottery game, comprising:

a game input unit ~~configured to for receiving~~ receive a random alphabetical play phrase from a user, wherein the alphabetical play phrase comprises a plurality of words;

a wager input device ~~configured to for receiving~~ receive a wager from the user;  
and

a controller operatively coupled to the game input unit and the wager input device, the controller ~~being capable of generating~~ configured to generate a random character string and ~~assigning~~ assign a prize value to the alphabetical play phrase, the controller is also configured to ~~determining~~ determine a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation among the character string, the alphabetical play phrase, the prize value, and the wager.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is received through a word based lottery play slip.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, the word based lottery play slip further comprising:

a first section, the first section containing the alphabetical play phrase; and  
a selection section, the selection section allowing the alphabetical play phrase to  
be coded.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the  
alphabetical play phrase is manually input by the user.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the  
alphabetical play phrase is selected by the user from a menu of phrases.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a  
ticket printer capable of generating a word based lottery ticket.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, the word based lottery  
ticket further comprising:

the alphabetical play phrase; and

a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the covered  
section can be removed to reveal the random character string.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the alphabetical play phrase being comprised of a plurality of words and a prize is associated with each word in the alphabetical play phrase.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the prize associated with each word may be changed by the user.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string matches a word in the alphabetical play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string contains all characters of a word in the alphabetical play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for playing a word based lottery game, comprising the steps of:

receiving an alphabetical play phrase from a user, the alphabetical play phrase having a plurality of words;

receiving a wager from the user;

generating a random character string;

determining a correlation among the alphabetical play phrase, the random character string, and the wager; and

determining a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of reading the alphabetical play phrase from a word based lottery play slip.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of receiving digits keyed in manually by the user.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the steps of:  
presenting a menu of phrases to the user; and  
receiving a selection from the user.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of printing a word based lottery ticket, the word based lottery ticket comprising:  
a section listing the alphabetical play phrase; and  
a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of associating a prize with each word in the alphabetical play phrase.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of modifying the prize associated with each word.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

determining a match between the random character string and the plurality of words in the alphabetical play phrase; and

awarding a prize based on the match to the user.

50. (Currently Amended) A lottery ticket, comprising:

a pre-printed section, the pre-printed section ~~listing~~ having a pre-printed word-based play phrase comprised of a plurality of words, whereby a prize is associated with each word in the pre-printed play phrase; and

a random character string having a cover thereover, the cover being selectively removable to reveal the random character string.

51. (Cancelled).

52. (Currently Amended) The lottery ticket of claim ~~51~~50, wherein the random character string selectively matches a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby upon such matching, ~~a~~ the prize associated with the word is won.

53. (Currently Amended) The lottery ticket of claim ~~54~~ 50, wherein the random character string selectively containing all characters of a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby a the prize associated with the word is won.